

Application No. 10/692,401
Amendment dated July 11, 2007
Reply to Office Action of April 11, 2007

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant has reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on April 11, 2007, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 1 and 2 are amended. No claims were cancelled or added. Claims 1-17 and 19-23 are pending in this application.

Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to claim 1 and 2 do not introduce any new subject matter and are intended to cover additional claimable subject matter fully supported by the originally filed specification. For example, support for the amendments can be found at page 4, lines 19-28 and figures 1 and 6-13 of the specification, among other places.

§ 102 Rejection of the Claims

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,241,763 to Drasler, et al. (hereinafter "Drasler"). Applicant has amended claim 1 to more clearly recite the claimed subject matter. Insofar as the rejection applies to amended claim 1, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection as follows.

Applicant respectfully submits that Drasler does not appear to teach all the elements and limitations recited in claim 1. For example, Drasler does not appear to teach a method of providing a unidirectional flow valve that includes folding a first portion of a vein longitudinally over an adjacent second portion of the vein, as recited in claim 1.

Based on the forgoing, Applicant respectfully submits that Drasler does not support a proper 102(b) rejection of independent claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the 102(b) rejection for independent claim 1, as well as those claims which depend therefrom.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 17 and 19-23.

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CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 236-0122 to facilitate prosecution of this matter.

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being transmitted to the United States Patent Office facsimile number (571) 273-8300 on

7/11/2007

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Respectfully Submitted,
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